

BEVERLY EAVES PERDUE  
GOVERNOR



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**Damages Continue to Mount From Hurricane Irene**  
*Agricultural, Home, Business and Community Damage Estimates Top \$400 Million*

**RALEIGH** – Gov. Bev Perdue today announced that preliminary damage assessments have topped \$400 million for losses from Hurricane Irene. Uninsured or underinsured home and business damages are estimated at more than \$40 million now, local government costs exceed \$45 million and estimated agricultural losses have grown to more than \$320 million.

These numbers could continue to change as teams on the ground continue to assess damages from the hurricane.

“We have moved quickly to provide every bit of assistance possible for the families, businesses and farms that were hit by Hurricane Irene,” Gov. Perdue said. “We knew the financial toll would be large, but our determination to help victims of the storm recover is even bigger.”

In a letter today to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Thomas Vilsack, Perdue requested an expedited major disaster declaration for 43 counties in Eastern North Carolina. Perdue urged that, without help, many producers will go out of business, and the economic ripple effect will be substantial, resulting in thousands of additional lost jobs.

Preliminary agricultural loss estimates reported to state emergency management top \$320 million, with damages to corn, cotton, peanuts, sweet potatoes, poultry, swine and tobacco, and farm buildings, machinery and equipment. U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance would provide low-interest loans and other federal assistance.

“As you saw, Hurricane Irene devastated agriculture in our eastern counties,” Perdue stated in her letter. “Extreme drought had already withered crops and delayed harvests, resulting in even greater hurricane damage that might otherwise have occurred. We anticipate losses in the hundreds of millions of dollars, and we appreciate your willingness to assist with the recovery.”